

PCB AGEA 06-01

2006

1                                    A bill to be entitled

2        An act relating to water management districts; amending s.  
3        373.503, F.S.; providing that a water management  
4        district's millage rate is subject to annual authorization  
5        by the Legislature; requiring the Legislature to annually  
6        review a water management district's millage rate;  
7        requiring the Legislature to annually set the revenue  
8        authorized to be raised by each water management district  
9        from ad valorem taxes; amending s. 373.536, F.S.;  
10       providing that a water management district's fiscal year  
11       begins July 1; providing a timeline for a water management  
12       district's budget submission; providing for  
13       implementation; providing an effective date.

14  
15    Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
16

17        Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section  
18        373.503, Florida Statutes, is amended, subsection (5) is  
19        renumbered as subsection (6), and a new subsection (5) is added  
20        to said section, to read:

21        373.503    Manner of taxation.--

22        (3)(a)    Subject to annual authorization to levy ad valorem  
23        taxes pursuant to subsection (5), the districts may levy ad  
24        valorem taxes on property within the district solely for the  
25        purposes of this chapter and of chapter 25270, 1949, Laws of  
26        Florida, as amended, and chapter 61-691, Laws of Florida, as  
27        amended. The authority to levy ad valorem taxes as provided in  
28        this act shall commence with the year 1977. However, the taxes

PCB AGEA 06-01

2006

29 levied for 1977 by the governing boards pursuant to this section  
30 shall be prorated to ensure that no such taxes will be levied  
31 for the first 4 days of the tax year, which days will fall prior  
32 to the effective date of the amendment to s. 9(b), Art. VII of  
33 the State Constitution, which was approved March 9, 1976. When  
34 appropriate, taxes levied by each governing board may be  
35 separated by the governing board into a millage necessary for  
36 the purposes of the district and a millage necessary for  
37 financing basin functions specified in s. 373.0695. ~~Beginning~~  
38 ~~with the taxing year 1977, and~~ Notwithstanding the provisions of  
39 any other general or special law to the contrary, and subject to  
40 annual authorization to levy ad valorem taxes pursuant to  
41 subsection (5), the maximum total millage rate for district and  
42 basin purposes shall be:

- 43 1. Northwest Florida Water Management District: 0.05 mill.
- 44 2. Suwannee River Water Management District: 0.75 mill.
- 45 3. St. Johns River Water Management District: 0.6 mill.
- 46 4. Southwest Florida Water Management District: 1.0 mill.
- 47 5. South Florida Water Management District: 0.80 mill.

48 (5) In order to ensure that the taxes authorized by this  
49 chapter continue to be in proportion to the benefits derived by  
50 the several parcels of real estate within the districts to which  
51 territories are annexed and transferred, the Legislature shall  
52 annually review the authorized millage rate for each district  
53 and annually set the amount of revenue authorized to be raised  
54 by each district from the taxes authorized by this chapter.

55           Section 2. Subsection (1), subsection (2), and paragraphs  
56 (c), (e), and (f) of subsection (5), of section 373.536, Florida  
57 Statutes, are amended to read:

58           373.536 District budget and hearing thereon.--

59           (1) FISCAL YEAR.--The fiscal year of districts created  
60 under the provisions of this chapter shall extend July 1 ~~October~~  
61 ~~1~~ of one year through June 30 ~~September 30~~ of the following  
62 year.

63           (2) BUDGET SUBMITTAL.--The budget officer of the district  
64 shall, on or before March 30 ~~July 15~~ of each year, submit for  
65 consideration by the governing board of the district a tentative  
66 budget for the district covering its proposed operations and  
67 funding requirements for the ensuing fiscal year.

68           (5) TENTATIVE BUDGET CONTENTS AND SUBMISSION; REVIEW AND  
69 APPROVAL.--

70           (c) Each water management district shall, by April 15  
71 ~~August 1~~ of each year, submit for review a tentative budget to  
72 the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the  
73 House of Representatives, the chairs of all legislative  
74 committees and subcommittees with substantive or fiscal  
75 jurisdiction over water management districts, as determined by  
76 the President of the Senate or the Speaker of the House of  
77 Representatives as applicable, the secretary of the department,  
78 and the governing body of each county in which the district has  
79 jurisdiction or derives any funds for the operations of the  
80 district.

81           (e) By May 15 ~~September 5~~ of the year in which the budget  
82 is submitted, the House and Senate appropriations chairs may

PCB AGEA 06-01

2006

83 transmit to each district comments and objections to the  
84 proposed budgets. Each district governing board shall include a  
85 response to such comments and objections in the record of the  
86 governing board meeting where final adoption of the budget takes  
87 place, and the record of this meeting shall be transmitted to  
88 the Executive Office of the Governor, the department, and the  
89 chairs of the House and Senate appropriations committees.

90 (f) The Executive Office of the Governor shall annually,  
91 on or before September 15 ~~December 15~~, file with the Legislature  
92 a report that summarizes its review of the water management  
93 districts' tentative budgets and displays the adopted budget  
94 allocations by program area. The report must identify the  
95 districts that are not in compliance with the reporting  
96 requirements of this section. State funds shall be withheld from  
97 a water management district that fails to comply with these  
98 reporting requirements.

99 Section 3. For the 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 fiscal years,  
100 notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the water management  
101 districts are directed to budget and plan for their fiscal  
102 management to conform to the provisions of this act.

103 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.